

## • Abroad •

**Budapest, Hungary.** Since the first of the year, the Kadar regime has been conducting a ruthless collectivization drive. The "persuaders" have been security police squads that swoop down on a village, grab the leading peasants, and hold them incommunicado until they sign the "voluntary" papers pooling their land. The result has been a jump in collective farmland from 17 per cent to 50.5 per cent of the total. The statements do not add that Hungary cannot supply the machinery needed for the proper cultivation of the large-scale units, nor does it have foreign exchange with which to get imports. The economy is showing a large current deficit in balance of payments, and will next year confront the start of repayments on the Soviet loan made after the 1956 revolt. Resources are being channeled into plants whose products will meet Soviet requirements instead of domestic needs. Kadar is trying to hide the underlying economic crisis by new shop fronts and neon lights on the streets, a Magyar cola drink, and token imports of fancy cars.

**Matsu Islands, Free China.** While the world's attention is focused on Berlin and the Soviet-American tourist exchange, Communist China has been stepping up operations in Southeast Asia. In conjunction with the Communist troops moving into Laos, there have been diversionary and probing actions in the Formosa Strait. On several days, bombardment from the mainland has been heavier than for many months. A unit of Communist frogmen raided Pinlangyu islet. The naval actions, with several score casualties and a number of small boats sunk, have taken place between light frigates and torpedo boats.

**London, England.** In the rest of the world as in America, big city crime is mounting rapidly. The new London Commissioner of Police, Sir Joseph Simpson, reports that in 1958 there were 151,795 "indictable crimes"—25,000 more than the preceding year, and twice as many as in 1954. The sharpest increase was in the teen-age (14 to 20) group. (There was no increase in the above-30 age group.) Among the causes to which Sir Joseph points are: the new racial tensions; diversion of police to traffic duties; excessive leniency in the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

**Mont-Louis, Pyrenees, France.** Professor Felix Trombe is a combination archaeologist, speleologist, physicist and health resort operator. Ten years ago he got a small government grant for experiments in harnessing solar energy. His first reflectors were made out of captured German searchlights. Today his remarkable solar furnace, with the world's largest and most precise parabolic reflector, is one more proof of the brilliant advances being made by French science and technology. The furnace tracks the sun through photoelectric cells, and even in winter easily reaches temperatures of over 2,000 degrees Cent. With a normal operating temperature of 2,700 degrees Cent., it

can melt heavy iron bars in ten seconds. A much bigger installation is under rapid construction nearby. The current practical application is to the strange new alloys and ceramics required for missiles, supersonic jet planes and nuclear reactors, which can be turned out by the solar furnace with much greater purity, homogeneity and accuracy—and also more cheaply—than by any other method.

### SOVIET EXHIBITION →



Carrefour

"They're catching up to us! Their imitation of French champagne is almost as bad as California champagne."

**Hanoi, North (Communist) Vietnam.** Ho Chi Minh's recent statement that Communist China would soon have atomic bombs has raised varied speculation. Moscow has never shown any eagerness to give Peiping any Soviet bombs—not even as warheads for the rockets which have been supplied for possible use in the Formosa Strait—and there is no reason to think that the Soviet attitude has changed. So far as is known, mainland China herself has only one nuclear plant; an experimental reactor built with Russian help and opened in June of 1958. In a year and a half or two years (i.e., by early in 1960) this reactor could have made enough plutonium for a small bomb, and the Chinese could doubtless fashion it into crude but workable mechanism. Is it possible that, in the classic Chinese style, Peiping will explode a show bomb of such sort, with the announcement that China has entered the nuclear club?

**Quimper, France.** The municipal council of the *Ile de Sein*, a rocky storm-tossed island off the Breton coast, has announced that it will "accept" the tax regulations now in operation "on the continent" and the French *fisc* (internal revenue) has heaved a sigh of relief. The *Iliens*, as they are called, were exempted from taxation by Louis XIV's Finance Minister Colbert in the seventeenth century, in recognition of their services toward sailors in trouble, and that tax immunity continued for three hundred years. After the Liberation in 1944, the people of *Sein* were informed they, too, were to pay their taxes; but to little avail since they refused to fill out any tax forms. This spring, in the surge of patriotism which followed the formation of the Fifth Republic, the people of *Sein* reversed themselves and voted in what is probably the first "let's pay our taxes" slate in world history.

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